



895

JAN '11



Lex Luthor's

ACTION

COMICS

**HOSTILE
TAKEOVER**
BY **VANDAL
SAVAGE!**

PAUL CORNELL
PETE WOODS

DIRECT SALES



\$3.99 US DCCOMICS.COM

SECOND FEATURE

by NICK SPENCER & RB SILVA

JIMMY OLSEN



SAPRISTI, BOHEMIA. "THE MOST FOUL FIT OF ALL EUROPE." 1358. THE IMMORTAL VANDAL SAVAGE.

THE BLACK RING

PART SIX

paul cornell
writer
pete woods
artist
brad anderson
colorist
rob leigh
letterer
david finch,
batt
& **peter**
stelgerwald
cover
will moss
asst. editor
matt idelson
editor

superman
created by
jerry siegel
& **joe shuster**

STILL
NO SIGN
OF HIM?

NO,
MY LORD...

BORN IN SMALLVILLE
BUT BELIEVING HIMSELF
SUPERIOR, HE MURDERED HIS
FATHER TO ESCAPE SMALL-TOWN AMERICA
AND BUILT AN EMPIRE ON HIS GENIUS.
THE SWORN ENEMY OF SUPERMAN, HE HAS
VOWED THAT THE WORLD WILL TURN ITS
BACK ON THE MAN OF STEEL AND INSTEAD
EMBRACE HUMANITY'S CHAMPION...
AND FUTURE RULER...

Lex Luthor



--THE TIDE
SHOULD HAVE
EBBED.

"I SHALL MAKE MY
YEARLY INSPECTION
OF THE PUSTULES."

I RECALL
THE PATH EXACTLY...
EVEN THROUGH THE
THOUSAND TRAPS
I HAVE SET.

FOR DID I NOT
BUILD THIS CITY
ATOP THESE
BEAUTIES?

GUARD CAPTAINS,
I KNOW THIS IS
MERE RITUAL--

--BUT ALLOW ME
TO AFFIRM AGAIN. IT IS
PROPHESIED THAT THIS
MAN WILL COME, FOR HOW
ELSE COULD HE "MAKE HIS
PRESENCE FELT"?

THAT HE WILL
NOT WISH ME WELL,
BUT THAT HIS ADVENTURE
WILL GRANT ME GREAT
HAPPINESS.

IT IS **HE** THIS CITY
IS SET TO TRAP AND KEEP,
TO MAKE SURE OF THAT
CONSEQUENCE. FOR DEATH
WAS ALSO MENTIONED.
HAVE YOU SEEN HIM?

NO, MY
LORD.

AVE, FOR
INDEED...

...HE MAY
NOT YET BE
BORN.

BUT I CAN WAIT.
HAPPINESS FOR ME
IS CONQUEST--

--I MAY HAVE
CENTURIES OF IT
BEFORE HE ADDS HIS
CONTRIBUTION!

17TH CENTURY...



18TH CENTURY...



19TH CENTURY...



20TH CENTURY...





A FEW YEARS AGO.

DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE THIS MAN FROST HAS KILLED THE FLASH?

HARDLY. IT'S SOME ILLUSION.

LUTHOR, WE'VE MET ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS...

...MIGHT I OFFER YOU HOSPITALITY?

I HAVE A FINE RESIDENCE IN THE CZECH CITY OF--

SAVAGE--

--WE'RE NOT FRIENDS.

I DON'T ASSOCIATE WITH "SUPER-VILLAINS" UNLESS IT'S TO LEAD THEM.

THEY HAVE MASTER PLANS AND COSTUMES AND PRETENSIONS.

WE HAVE LITTLE IN COMMON.

EXCUSE ME.

THIS HAPPENED BETWEEN PANELS IN FLASH #124.
--Meticulous Matt.

A FEW MONTHS AGO.

IT'S AGREED, THEN. WE HAVE COMMON AIMS. TO GET BACK TO EARTH, WE'LL WORK TOGETHER, AS EQUALS AND FRIENDS.

Heh.

MY NATURE GIVES ME A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE ON ONE SUCH AS YOU, LUTHOR.

CHANGING LIKE THE WIND. HERE AND GONE IN A MOMENT.

WHAT'S YOUR POINT?

YOU MIGHT SHORTLY MAKE A DECISION THAT WILL DESTINE YOU FOR LASTING GREATNESS.

ONCE WE RETURN TO EARTH, IF YOU WOULD WILLINGLY COME TO ONE OF MY FACILITIES, IN THE CHARMING CZECH CITY OF--

Hmmm...

...TO DO LIST, POINT ONE--

DAMN HIM--!

--HE IS TURNING MY PROPHECY INTO A MERE--

AND THIS DURING THE CLIMAX OF SALVATION RUN.
--Meretricious Matt.

"--DREAM!"

NOW, LEXCORP
FACILITY, WOOMERA,
AUSTRALIA.

...TEN...
EXTRUSIONS...

ONLY
TEN!

ALL TEN!

CHANGE
THOSE TEN,
AND--

--AND--!







A TEST MISSION?
I SUPPOSE WE COULD...

WE'RE STILL INTEGRATING THE THANAGARIAN TECH WITH THE APOKOLIPTIAN. WE WON'T BE READY FOR INTERSTELLAR FLIGHT FOR AT LEAST--

THAT'S NOT YET REQUIRED.

THIS WILL BE JUST LIKE A VISIT TO OUR SPACE STATION, WHEN WE WERE SETTING UP THAT PART OF THE PLAN. TODAY I WANT TO LAUNCH--



--A SATELLITE.

WITH A REMOTE BLACK LANTERN ENERGY SENSOR ABOARD?

YOU'RE PLANNING TO CHANGE THE CONDITION OF SOME OF THE SPHERES--?



--FROM ORBIT.

SO WE CAN PROCEED TO DEALING WITH OUR MORE DIFFICULT TARGETS. THESE TWO ARE NEATLY TOGETHER.

AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, I SHOULDN'T THINK--



MY PUSTULES NO
LONGER MAKE ME
FEEL **ANGRY!**

THE PEOPLE
OF THE CITY--

--ARE FIGHTING
AS PEOPLE **DO**,
BECAUSE THEY
ALWAYS **HAVE!**

YOU
TWO--!

--THIS WAS **YOUR**
RESPONSIBILITY!

YOU HAVE
BROKEN YOUR
OATH!

B...BUT
EVERYTHING
INDICATES HE
HASN'T COME
HERE, SIR--

DETAILS!
WHAT DOES
YOUR CRIME
REQUIRE?!



YOU
DARE--?!



LEXCORP
HEADQUARTERS,
METROPOLIS.
THE NEXT DAY.

DAMN IT,
MONIQUE!

I KNOW MR. LUTHOR'S
STILL ON HIS WAY BACK
FROM AUSTRALIA.

I WANT TO
MEET WITH HIM
VIRTUALLY.

TELL HIM IT'S
SEBASTIEN MALLORY.
HE'LL TAKE THE CALL,
TRUST ME.

MR.
MALLORY...

...IF THIS IS
LEXCORP--

--YOU'RE AT THE END
WHERE YOU GET YOUR
NOSE RUBBED IN IT.

FORCING YOUR WAY
IN TO SEE THE BOSS, NO MATTER
WHAT GREAT IDEA YOU'VE HAD--

--THAT GETS YOU
CORPORATELY
DEAD, AND MAYBE
ALSO--

--WHAT
IS--?

I
DON'T--!

RAH-BLAM!

AN HOUR LATER.

LEXCORP
CONTROL TO
L.C.I., CLEAR FOR
LANDING.

KATV
SOUNDED KIND
OF STRESSED
OUT.

I DID
WHAT YOU
SAID, I CLEARED
THEM FOR
LANDING.

I WAS GOING
TO HAVE LUNCH
WITH A MATE
OF MINE--

--BUT HE SAYS
HE WAS JUST TOLD
"ALL APPOINTMENTS
OFF."

I'M SORRY,
GENTLEMEN, WE'LL
RESCHEDULE.

SOMETHING'S UP
WITH THE CENTRAL
DATA FEED...

Tch.
WHILE THE
CAT'S
AWAY...





--HAPPINESS IS
CONQUEST. CONQUEST
IS POWER. POWER IS
KNOWLEDGE.

I *MUST* BE HERE TO
TAKE *THIS* KNOWLEDGE
FROM YOU.

TELL ME HOW
TO FIND THE REST
OF THESE--

--AND WE'LL
LEAVE.

THINK VERY
HARD ABOUT YOUR
ANSWER, I HOLD IN MY
HANDS EVERYTHING
YOU HAVE BUILT.

I CAN SEE I'M AT
A DISADVANTAGE.

YOU'VE SHUT
DOWN MY SECURITY,
BESIEGED MY
BUILDING--

--AND
PREVENTED
ME FROM
SUMMONING--

“--ANY KIND
OF HELP.”

HEY,
SCANDAL--

--ANY IDEA
WHAT THAT
MEANS?

NEXT: DIE HARD vs. DAD







WHO NEEDS A NIGHT CLUB WHEN YOU'VE GOT A BOOK CLUB? AMIRITE?

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
THE METROPOLIS LITERARY SOCIETY
IS PROUD TO PRESENT SELECTED
READINGS FROM "THE RAINS OF
SAN LUIS OBISPO"--

--AN AS-YET
UNPUBLISHED
NOVEL WRITTEN
BY THE DAILY
PLANET'S OWN
PERRY WHITE.

"SHE WAS COLD--
NOT FROM THE DOWNCAST
WEATHER, RARE ENOUGH IN
THIS TOWN, BUT FROM THE
TOO MANY HEARTBREAKS SHE
HAD BEEN MADE TO ENDURE AT
THE HANDS OF MEN WHOSE
CARINGS CEASED WHEN THEIR
DESIRES WERE MET.

"--HE PLACED A
TREMBLING ARM 'ROUND
HER SHOULDER AS THE RAINS
BEAT DOWN ON THEM. THEY
LOOKED UP AT THE CLOUDS
AND CURSED, KNOWING THEIR
MOMENT OF SEPARATION
DREW NEARER.

"TIME AND
FATE WOULD
CONTINUE THEIR
SLOW ABUSE."

WOW,
FASCINATING
STUFF, CHIEF.
AND HOW LONG
HAVE YOU BEEN
WORKING ON
THIS?

'BOUT EIGHTEEN
YEARS NOW.
EIGHTEEN YEARS
AND OVER ONE
THOUSAND
PAGES.

Mm...
FASCINATING.

I'D LIKE TO READ ANOTHER
PASSAGE NOW, FROM A BIT
LATER IN THE BOOK...

THIS IS...
THIS IS BREATH-
TAKINGLY
HORRIBLE.

SO HELP ME...
IF I EVER FIND THIS
SAN LUIS OBISPO,
I SWEAR TO
DESTROY IT.





AND SOMETIMES, WE IN METROPOLIS YEARN FOR THE SIMPLER, QUIETER LIFE--

LIKE BEING IN A COMA?

--AND SO WE REACH OUT TO OUR LITTLE SISTER CITY, THE QUANT TOWN FAMOUSLY KNOWN AS SMALLVILLE! WE FIGURED YOU MIGHT WANT TO DO THE SAME WHEN YOU VISIT!



HERE TO TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT, WE'VE ARRANGED A SPECIAL VIDEO CONFERENCE WITH SMALLVILLE'S OWN PROUDEST MOM, MARTHA KENT!

HELLO?!?
HELLO?!?



HELLO, MRS. KENT, WE'RE HERE!

IS THAT JIMMY OLSEN? I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING HERE. HOW DO I MAKE THE PICTURE BIGGER?

I THINK YOU CAN JUST MAXIMIZE THE--



CAN HE HEAR ME? WHERE DO I TALK INTO THIS?

IT'S A SIMPLE TECHNOLOGY, AGED EARTH WOMAN!

MRS. KENT, IF I COULD ASK YOU TO--



IS THIS BETTER? CAN YOU HEAR ME BETTER?

GAH! OLD PEOPLE MOUTH!!!



I KNOW, ISN'T IT JUST AMAZING HOW MUCH WE HAVE TO OFFER HERE? YOUR PEOPLE WILL LOVE--

ARE YOU KIDDING? THERE IS NO WAY WE ARE GONNA PARTY HERE. LIKE, EVER. THIS IS THE **LAMEST, DUMBEST, MOST BORING PLACE** I'VE EVER SEEN. NO WONDER SUPERMAN DITCHED YOU-- IF I LIVED HERE, I'D START WALKING, TOO!



ARE YOU SURE? I MEAN, METROPOLIS WOULD BE HONORED TO--

IN YOUR DREAMS, BOWTIE!





OKAY, AT THIS POINT, I GOTTA ADMIT: I'M STUMPED.

I MEAN, I THOUGHT CHLOE DUMPED ME BECAUSE I'D GOTTEN BORING AND WHATNOT. NOW I'M ALL OUTSMARTING WASTED ALIENS AND PREVENTING PARTVOCALYPSE, AND STILL-- NOTHING!



BUT HEY, WHAT DO I CARE? I'M DOING FINE. HAN SOLO.

FREE AS BIRD.

LONE LIKE WOLF.

SO WHAT IF SHE WANTS TO HANG OUT WITH STUPID SEBASTIEN MALLORY?



WHAT'S HE GOT BESIDES, YOU KNOW, LIMITLESS MONEY AND GOOD LOOKS AND AN APARTMENT WHERE EVERY ROOM ISN'T THE LAUNDRY ROOM?

WHO CARES. SHE WAS JUST SLOWING ME DOWN. I DON'T NEED HER, RIGHT? I DON'T NEED ANY--



Any, WHO AM I KIDDING?



OW!

HEYA, OLSEN.



From Pilgrim Batman and all of us at DC Editorial:
HAPPY THANKSGIVING, DC NATION!



Here are some of the things we'll be giving thanks for this year:

Rex Ogle: I'm thankful for my officemate **Sean Ryan** who always makes my workday a pleasant one. I suspect he may be made of kittens and unicorns and children's laughter.

Wil Moss: Just like last year, I'm thankful for the astounding artwork of the newly DC-exclusive **CAFU**, currently blowing minds left and right in the pages of **T.H.U.N.D.E.R. AGENTS!** And I'm thankful that the legendary **Eduardo Risso** made time in his schedule to illustrate December's **JONAH HEX #62!**

Liz Gehrlein: I'm grateful for the letters that kids send to Johnny DC. Reading them is one of my favorite parts of the job!

Joey Cavalieri: I'm thankful that I get to work on the Spirit, since **Will Eisner** was one of my teachers as well as a personal favorite — hell, one of everybody's personal favorites!

Mike Marts: I am thankful for writer/artists — **Dave Finch**, **Tony Daniel** — that means you!

Rachel Gluckstern: I've been told that the **TEEN TITANS** are grateful for

the new blood on their team — I think they should've been more careful what they wished for!

Brian Cunningham: I am thankful for all the visits I receive from other editors who mooch off my stash of free gum...waitaminute — they should be thankful for ME!

Mike Carlin: I am thankful for an amazing 25 years at DC Comics!

Mark Chiarello: I'm thankful that every episode of **Columbo** is on DVD.

Eddie Berganza: I am extremely thankful for all my hardworking freelancers — you know who you are! You make the comics awesome because you are awesome!

Matt Idelson: I'm thankful to be doing something I love for a living.

Chris Conroy: I am thankful for all the candy still left around the office from Halloween. **DON'T JUDGE.**

Sean Ryan: I'm thankful for my officemate **Rex Ogle** for making the workday feel a little like dipping my toe into a shallow pool of Heaven.

Jon Sattler: I'm grateful for all the members of the DC Nation who come out and support us at all the shows!

DC NATION

TEXT **DC NATION** TO **62407** TO GET THE LATEST DC UNIVERSE NEWS, ALERTS AND SPECIAL OFFERS! Standard carrier rates may apply.

DC COMICS: DIANE NELSON, President; DAN DIDIO and JIM LEE, Co-Publishers; GEOFF JOHNS, Chief Creative Officer; PATRICK CALDON, Executive VP-Finance & Administration; JOHN ROOD, Executive VP-Sales, Marketing & Business Development; AMY GEMKINS, Senior VP-Business & Legal Affairs; STEVE ROTTERDAM, Senior VP-Sales & Marketing; JOHN CUNNINGHAM, VP-Marketing; TERRI CUNNINGHAM, VP-Managing Editor; ALISON GILL, VP-Manufacturing; DAVID HYDE, VP-Publicity; SUE POHIA, VP-Book Trade Sales; ALYSE SOILL, VP-Advertising & Custom Publishing; BOB WAYNE, VP-Sales; MARK CHIARELLO, Art Director.

ACTION COMICS #895, January, 2011. Published monthly by DC Comics, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ACTION COMICS, DC Comics Subscriptions, P.O. Box 308, Canonsville, NY 12622. Annual subscription rate (12 issues) \$29.99. Canadian subscribers must add \$12.00 for postage and GST. GST # is R125911872. All foreign countries must add \$12.00 for postage. U.S. funds only. Copyright © 2011 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof and related elements are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. DC Comics does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories or artwork. This book is manufactured at a facility holding chain-of-custody certification. This paper is made with sustainably managed North American fiber. Printed by Quad/Graphics, Montreal, QC, Canada, 11/17/10.

DC Comics, a Warner Bros. Entertainment Company

"DEFT STORYTELLING." - PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS

"EXTREMELY COOL AND EXCEPTIONALLY CRAFTED."

- AIN'T IT COOL NEWS

"RIVETING." - IGN



THE FIRST HARDCOVER COLLECTION
OF THE ACCLAIMED FOLLOW-UP TO BLACKEST NIGHT

BRIGHTEST DAY

JOHNS TOMASI REIS GLEASON
SYAF CLARK PRADO FINCH

DECEMBER

dccomics.com
Comic Shop Locator Service: comicshoplocator.com
TM and © 2010 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved.





BLACKEST NIGHT

COLLECTOR ACTION FIGURES

SERIES 6 & 7 IN STORES NOVEMBER 2010

SERIES 8 IN STORES DECEMBER 2010

ORDER YOURS TODAY!

FOR PRODUCT INFO AND MORE, GO TO DCDIRECTONLINE.COM. • VISIT COMICSHOPLOCATOR.COM OR CALL 1-888-COMIC-BOOK.

Green Lantern and all related characters and elements are trademarks and © DC COMICS. All rights reserved.

Products may vary from images shown.

©2010



Authentic Collectibles
Direct from the Source!



THE CREATORS OF VERTIGO'S
AMERICAN VAMPIRE AND
THE LOSERS TAKE ON
**THE DARK
KNIGHT!**

BATMAN DETECTIVE COMICS

BEGINNING WITH
ISSUE # 871

WRITTEN BY

**SCOTT
SNYDER**

ILLUSTRATED BY

JOCK

COMMISSIONER

GORDON

SECOND FEATURE BY

**SCOTT SNYDER &
FRANCESCO
FRANCAVILLA**

NOVEMBER 2010

COMIC SHOP LOCATOR SERVICE: COMICSHOPLOCATOR.COM

DCCOMICS.COM





SOOPAH-BEAST,
HE'S SOOPA



SOOPAH-BEAST!
AH-BEASTLY!